THE TRVE

Reporte of the ſeruice in *Britanie.*

Performed lately by the Honorable Knight Sir Iohn Norreys and other Captaines and Gentlemen ſouldiers *before Guingand.*

Together with the Articles which the Prince *D'ombes accorded to the defendants of the Towne.*

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Printed by Iohn VVolfe, and are to be ſold at his ſhop right ouer againſt the great South-doore of Paules. 1591.

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The true report of the ſeruice in Britanie, performed lately by the Honourable *Knight Sir* IOHN NORREYS *and other Captaines and gentlemen ſouldiers before Guingand: together with the articles which the Prince D'ombes accorded to the defendants of the towne.*

A Marſhall man principally deuoteth him ſelfe to hazard his lims and life in the ſeruice of his Prince & countrie for honour and crownes: as it were ſhame to eclipſe him the one, ſo it is iniurie to ſcant him the other: for the ſureſt whetſtone of valour and vertue is renowne and glorie: in defrauding the ſouldier of his pay, you cut his purſe and rebate his edge: in deprauing his honour, you cut his throate and ſtrike him ſtone deade: whereby I was induced to publiſh the renowned ſeruice done lately by that honourable knight S. IOHN NORREYS in Britanie: to the end that neither he, neither the reſt of the braue Captaines, gentlemen and ſouldiers ſhould want their due commendation, that both they may be encouraged to continew their braue & heroicall mindes, and others inclined to aduance themſelues to the like honorable attempts & actions. I am the better able to performe this my promiſe by reaſon of a letter I receiued thence from a gentleman ſo well qualified, that neither he wanted skill or wit to record the ſeruice with the pen, neither valour &

courage to performe anie enterprise with the sword, being a principall actor in the execution thereof, the copie wherof I present to the reader, that he may be truely enformed of the seruice, and yeelde the actors their due commendation.

SIR, by my last letters I aduertised you of the safe ariuall of our armie in Britanie, the third of May, continewing about the Abbay of Beauport a weeke, for the arming of the souldiers, mounting the artillerie and marshaling our Campe. The tenth, we began our march, and lodged with our troupes before *Guingand* the 13. Since which time, through the wonderful paines and continuall trauel of Sir IOHN NORREYS our L. Generall, the towne is rendered to the Prince D'OMBES, sonne to the Duke MOMPENSIER of the house of *Burbon*, Gouernour of Britanie for the King. The reporte whereof may seeme straunge to you, for we our selues do wonder at it, considering the strength of the place by arte and nature, and how greatly the conseruation therof imported *Philibert Emanuel*, *Duke Mercurie* of the house of *Vaudemont* a collaterall branch of *Lorrayne*, Gouernour of Britanie for those rebellious Leaguers who murthered his brother in law the late king his owne sisters husband: as well in regarde of his honour and reputation, as of his profit and peculiar interest, the towne being his proper inheritance, in the right of his wife *Marie* daughter and heire to *Sebastian* Duke of *Ponthieure*, whose father *Francis Vicount*

Martigue

Martigues of the houſe of *Luxemburg* attained large territories in Britanie, marrying *Charlotte* ſiſter and heire of *Iohn de Broſſe* who deſcended of the houſe of *Ponthieure* a collateral line of the Dukes of Britanie. The duke *Mercurie* notwithſtanding hee was thus particularly intereſſed in the town of *Guingand* wanting neither ſufficient gariſon, munition or victuals, hauing *Don Ioan de Lagula* in a readineſſe with foure thouſand Spaniards at *Pontiguy* beſides his owne troupes: yet ſuffered this defenſible place to bee loſt without blowes vpon diſhonourable and baſe conditions, whereby we may ſee how God rebateth the edge of rebels harts, daunteth their courages and ranuerſeth their actions with his byblows or vnlooked-for counterbuffes.

That the particularities of the matter may bee better knowne vnto you, you are to vnderſtand that the town of *Guingand* is ſtrongly waled round about inuironed with a large ditch and a deepe counterſcarfe, extending it ſelfe in length from the South Southeaſt, to the North Norweſt. Vpon the South end of the town where was ſometimes an old caſtle, there is now a very ſtrong bulwarke with three *Flankers*, and in the middeſt thereof a *Cauallero* which commandeth the whole towne. Not farre from it Eaſtwarde is the gate of the towne, of it ſelfe verie ſtrong, and before it a verie great *Rauelin* within the counterſcarfe of the ditch: at the bottom whereof there is a moſt daintie *Sallye*, inſomuch as a thouſand men may iſſue out at the ſame, and not one bee diſ-

couered vntill their heades appeare aboue the counterſcarfe. And aboue them are two drawne briges for the Saliants, the one for horſe, the other for foote, & right before the *Raueling* is a pretie conceited *Turnepike* or *Barricado* to checke the throng and multitude of purſuers. From this place Northwarde the wall is embowed like a horne with three *Flankers* vpon it, and ſo ranforced within with earth, as it is accounted a *Terra-pleyn*. The Weſt hath a very deepe ditch ful of water: neither could any aproch be made that way by reaſon of the marriſhis. The North end of the towne hath manie *Flankers* and a deepe ditch, yet ſomewhat drie & faſt by an Abbey of *Iacopins* which the villaines them ſelues pulled for the moſt part downe, leſt it ſhould anie way diſtreſſe the towne, ſtanding within leſſe then eightie paces of the towne wall. Notwithſtanding this their prouident malice, the rebels left as much ſtanding for vs as ſerued to cut their owne throates. My Lord Generall hauing quickly found that this part of the towne was fitteſt to receaue a breach, made ſhew to the quite contrarie parte thereof, as at the South parte hee cauſed trenches to be caſt, and paſſages to be made through the walles of old houſes, euen to the verie counterſcarfe of the ditch, a long trench was likewiſe caſt verie neare the walles of the Eaſt ſide of the towne, and in the middeſt therof a platforme of earth to be erected to ſome reaſonable height, as if the canon ſhould haue beene placed there: in the meane time all trauel was vſed in making of a Mine according to our Generals

nerals direction, neare to the entended breach, and the waies made for the bringing and dreſſing of the places fit for the Canon to play vpon, which was performed in ſo good ſorte as that by the 20. day of this moneth our artillerie was brought downe to the *Iacopines* cloiſter, and there placed within leſſe then an hundreth paces of the wall. And this was one of our greateſt combars both in reſpect of trauel & hazard, to both which how my L. did expoſe himſelfe truely I could not but wonder, and in my hart was angry to ſee it, and yet if he had not ſo hazarded himſelfe, I did partly perceiue that little woulde haue beene done.

On fryday the 21. we began our batterie, and notwithſtanding it continued all the day, yet by reaſon of the few peeces of artillerie, not able to make ſufficient batterie, the dayes worke brought forth no great effect other then the cruſhing of two *Flankers*, and the beating of the *perrepet*, ſo that the breach was very ſmall and the ſame ſo repaired continually by the ſouldiers and inhabitants within the towne, maintaining the rampart with fetherbeds, horſe dung and bags of earth almoſt to the loweſt part of their *perrepet*. The next day verie earely once againe wee began our batterie, and continued it vntil two or three of the clocke in the after noone, by what time the breach ſeemed verie faire. Whereupon the French humor vrged verie hotely to an aſſault, and ſo importuned the Prince *D'ombes* that he conſented thereunto. Our Generall although he was hardly drawne to yeeld his conſent, vnderſtanding by a Sergeant

of

of a band whom he had ſent to diſcouer the breach, that the rentrenchment within was exceeding deepe, and the mounting vp the breach very ſteepe, ſliding and difficult, but eſpecially becauſe the myne was not ſo forwarde to be anſwerable to the breach: notwithſtanding ſeeing the French men offering to attempt the place of them ſelues which had beene ſome diſgrace vnto vs, yeelded to their humor, and moſt inſtantly demaunded the point and honour of the aſſault for the Engliſh men, which being graunted conditionally that they ſhoulde bee ſeconded by the French. Such was the emulation of our commanders and Captaines to winne honour, that all being willing to attempt the ſeruice, to auoide contention our Generall cauſed the dice to bee caſt, ſo that it fell to Captaine IACKSON and Captaine HERON to leade the firſt two hundreth to the aſſault, which after their deuout prayers recommending them ſelues to God, they performed verie valiantly, ſcrambling vp with a notable reſolution, ſtanding a long halfe houre at the puſh of the pike in the face of a whole ſtorme of the ſmall ſhot, eſpecially Çaptaine IACKSON who came to the point of the breach, but not being throughly ſeconded by the ſouldiers vnable to get vp by reaſon of the ſteepenes of the place, yet were they hardly commanded to retire, performing their retraite with no leſſe good order then their attempt to the aſſault, Captaine HERON receiued a ſhot in the throate, whereof he preſently dyed, and not aboue twelue others ſlaine: Captaine IACKSON

ſore hurt. Captaine WOLFE in the top of the breach had three daungerous woundes in the head, and others in his body: Captaine CATESBYE a voluntarie gentleman ſore hurt in the arme. Alſo Captaine WHITTON and Maiſter *Paule Wingfeeld* with ſome other yonge gentlemen to the number of 30. Which loſſe can not be thought great in ſuch a peece of ſeruice, conſidering the great ſtrength within to defend the place. The ſecond attempt was giuen by the Baron of *Molac* Collonel generall of the French infanterie in theſe partes, and very well anſwered by himſelfe, and ſome few of the French gentlemen, but the common ſouldiers aduancing themſelues coldly to the breach, receiued the greater hurt, and by that occaſion were ſlaine of them many more then of our nation. Some others ſtraight preſented themſelues for a third aſſault, but the breach being found ſo difficult, and reſiſtance within ſtrong and well prepared, it was aduiſed to ſtay vntill the next day that the battery had made the breach more eaſie. During the time of the aſſault Captaine DENNIS a braue gentleman being ſent with ſome forces to make offer of a *ſcalado* to one other part of the towne, aduancing himſelfe too farre, receiued a Muſket ſhot in the bottome of his bellie, wherof he dyed about twelue of the clocke the ſame night. That night thoſe within demanded a Parley, which being accorded, certaine deputies out of the towne repaired the next morning to the Prince *Dombes*, and in the end grew to a capitulation, the copie whereof

you ſhall receiue herein incloſed. Which in my iudgement would haue beene accorded with much more aduantage to the Prince, if he had pleaſed to haue inſiſted vpon it: but being glad to recouer the towne, which is ſaide to be the ſtrongeſt in Britanie, except *Nantes* and *Dinant*: withall doubting leaſt the Duke *Mercury* with the helpe of *Don Iuan de Lagula* ſhould come to the ſuccour of the towne, (which it is likelye had beene performed, if the French had beene in ſo good readines as the Spaniardes) he woulde not treate anie long agreement. But all thinges being accorded on both ſides, on Whitſonday the towne was ſurrendered into the handes of *Monſieur Cargomart* appointed gouernour for the Prince. And Captaine GARGANTON which before held the place for the Duke *Mercurie*, with one other named *Contary*, ſent by the Duke *Mercurie* to aſſiſt the other, departed the towne the 24. of May, with an hundred and twentie horſe, and about two hundreth and ſixtie foot, in all mens iudgement able and ſtrong enough to haue kept the place for a much longer time. We had in the towne foure Enſignes, one Cornet, one Cannon Perrier, one Demy Culuering, and ſixe Sacres and Minions, two thouſand waight of pouder, and great ſtore of victuals. The hauing of this towne greatly importeth the King, for in a manner all baſe Britaine doth depend vpon it. The Courtes of Parlement, which was ordinarily held at Reynes were by the rebellious Leaguers transferred to *Guingand*, which argueth in what eſti-

mation

mation they held the ſtrength of the towne. Thus haue I plainly and truly reported the ſeruice of *Guingand*, and I perceiue our Generall meaneth to entertaine vs in action, for we are preſently to march againſt *Morlays* a rebellious towne coaſting vpon the ſea, whereby I am enforced to leaue my penne, and betake my ſelfe to the launce, for the trompet ſoundeth, *mont'a cauallo*.

Articles accorded by the Prince Dombes to the beſeeged within the towne of *Guingand*, *in Britanie*.

1 THe Gouernour, Captaines and Souldiers of *Guingand* ſhal render the towne into the Princes handes to morrowe the 23. of May, being Whitſonday, before noone.

2 The Prince will permit that the horſemen ſhall depart the towne with their horſes and furniture, and the footemen with their Harquebuze and ſwordes by their ſide.

3 The Cornets, Enſignes, and Drums which are in the towne, ſhall be deliuered to the Prince, and all their artillerie and munition of warre.

4 All Engliſhmen and Iriſhmen, if there be anie, ſhall be put into the hands of the Prince.

5 All Spaniards ſhall remaine priſoners.

6 The gentlemē who haue no charge of ſouldiers, who retired themſelues to the towne for refuge, ſhal pay 15000. crowns, and therby freed to enioy

their poſſeſſions and mouables.

7 The inhabitants of the towne ſhall pay 25000. crownes, and thereby ſhall be warranted from all pillage, enioying the kinges protection according to his late ordinances.

8 The priſoners the Kinges ſeruants, ſhall be ſet at libertie, and deliuered to the Prince.

9 For the aſſurance of this treatie, they ſhall preſently giue hoſtages, two for the gentlemen, two for the ſouldiers, and two for the inhabitants.

FINIS.